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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 1 October 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the 20 United Nations Member States that constitute the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking (Bahrain, Belarus, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), the Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which was adopted at the ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, convened on 22 September 2010 on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be appreciated if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105.

(*Signed*) Zoya **Kolontai**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

First Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking

Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons

We, the Members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, having met on 22 September 2010 on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York,

1. *Recognize* that trafficking in persons is among the largest and most inhuman illicit activities, remaining one of the greatest challenges that need a collective, concerted and comprehensive international response;

2. *Reiterate* our strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as it poses a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development;

3. *Stress* the importance of discouraging the demand for, with a view to successfully preventing and combating, trafficking in persons;

4. *Underline* the need to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors, such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, armed conflict, natural disasters, sexual violence, gender inequality, social exclusion, harmful practices and marginalization, that render people vulnerable to trafficking;

5. *Emphasize* the primary role of comprehensive national policies and legislation and their effective implementation in combating trafficking in persons;

6. *Stress* the importance of a human-rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons which emphasizes the rights of victims;

7. *Welcome* the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and *underline* the importance of its full implementation;

8. *Recognize* that the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons will promote and facilitate in an effective manner the implementation of relevant international anti-trafficking instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol

to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention;

9. *Express* the political will to promote the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, including through the activities of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking;

10. *Encourage* Member States, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, the mass media and other relevant stakeholders involved in combating trafficking in persons, to work for further cooperation in achieving common goals in combating trafficking in persons;

11. *Recognize* the important role of United Nations agencies and other relevant international organizations and stakeholders in assisting Member States, at their request, to support national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including through capacity-building and training;

12. *Express support* for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in coordinating the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) as important tools to foster coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating trafficking in persons;

13. *Commend* ongoing relevant national, subregional, regional and cross-regional initiatives on fighting trafficking in persons;

14. *Decide* to convene a ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly.